

REMARKS**Election of Species**

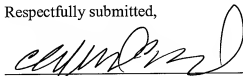
The Examiner required Applicants to elect "one (1) of the recited 2' modifications recited in the claims." Office Action at page 2. Applicants elect 2'-fluoro substituted nucleosides.

The Examiner noted that the reply must also include identification of the claims encompassing the elected species. Applicants submit that all of the pending claims encompass the elected species. The elected modification, 2'-fluoro substitution, is specifically recited in claims 251, 253, 256-261, 281, 283-287, 309, 314-319, 339, 341-347. Further, the Examiner noted that "at least claims 244, 274, 302, and 332 are generic." Office Action at page 3. Applicants submit that the remaining claims also read on the elected species. For example, claim 262 recites the composition of claim 244 (which comprises at least one chemical modification) comprising at least two nucleosides each comprising a sugar comprising a 2'-OCH₃. Although this claim does not recite the elected 2' fluoro modification, molecules comprising such modifications are encompassed by the claim, provided that the recited 2'-OCH₃ element is satisfied. That is, the claim reaches compositions comprising both at least one 2'-fluoro modification and at least two 2'-OCH₃ modifications. Accordingly, Applicants submit that all of the claims read on the elected species. Claims 244-359 remain pending.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the foregoing constitutes a complete and full response to the official action of record. Accordingly, an early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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